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Chapter I

Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its nineteenth session

1. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation adopted the following decisions at its nineteenth session:

Decision 19/1
South-South cooperation

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which the Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1]

Reaffirming also the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009,[2]

Recalling its decisions 18/1 and 18/IM/1,[3] as well as General Assembly resolution 70/222 of 22 December 2015,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions and reaffirms the strong global commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for,

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.
[2] General Assembly resolution 64/222, annex.
[3] SSC/18/IM/2, chap. I.

North-South cooperation, and recognizing its increased importance, different history and particularities, stressing that South-South cooperation should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives, and reiterating that it should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit,

Reaffirming the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development, encouraging developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and to further improve its development effectiveness in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, and committing to strengthen triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive proposal on concrete ways to enhance the role and impact of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as well as the key measures taken to improve the coordination and coherence of United Nations support to South-South cooperation,[4]

Taking note also of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,[5] and taking note further of the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation,[6]

1. *Stresses* that the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation is a key intergovernmental body in the United Nations system for reviewing and assessing global and system-wide progress on and support for South-South and triangular cooperation;

2. *Also stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

3. *Reaffirms* the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to present, during the ongoing seventieth session of the General Assembly, further information on the specific assignments and duties to be taken up by the Director of the Office deriving from his designation as the Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, taking into consideration the requests made by Member States to improve the impact as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, including in the areas of financial, human and budgetary resources, and the potential appointment of a

[4] SSC/19/2.
[5] SSC/19/1.
[6] SSC/17/3.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, with a view to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[7]

4. *Recognizes* the need for the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to clarify the management relationships and reporting lines and to take immediate action to improve the transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the Office, and acknowledges the steps taken by the Office in this regard;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to implement, as appropriate, those recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit[8] and the United Nations Development Programme[9] that remain unfulfilled;

6. *Welcomes* the progress made by the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team of the United Nations Development Group in establishing a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and in designating United Nations development system focal points to join the mechanism, in this regard reiterates the request made to the Administrator to continue to give the Office the opportunity to be represented more regularly in strategic and coordination mechanisms of the Group when matters affecting South-South and triangular cooperation are being discussed, also welcomes the ongoing mapping of good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation by the Task Team, and encourages Task Team members to continue the mapping and design of joint strategies and programmes for scaling up such practices upon request by Member States, taking into account similar exercises undertaken at the regional level, as applicable;

7. *Recognizes* that some United Nations entities and agencies have stepped up their support to South-South initiatives, including in policy coordination, capacity development, research and analysis, networking, partnership-building and funding, and requests all funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system that have not already done so to integrate South-South and triangular cooperation into their policies and strategic frameworks, as appropriate and consistent with their respective mandates;

8. *Invites* the United Nations development system to encourage the transfer of technologies on mutually agreed terms for the benefit of developing countries to address poverty eradication and sustainable development;

9. *Welcomes* the launch, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and looks forward to its expeditious operationalization;

10. *Notes with appreciation* that a number of Member States have designated national focal points for South-South and triangular cooperation so as to promote the dissemination of information on the work of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and encourages others to do the same, looks forward to the establishment of networks and exchanges between Southern institutions in developing countries, and requests the Office, in close collaboration with the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team and Member States, to foster dialogue

[7] Resolution 70/1.
[8] See A/66/717.
[9] See DP/2013/31.

and collaboration with and among such institutions, building upon the work undertaken at the regional, interregional and global levels with a view to advancing South-South and triangular cooperation in strategic sectors to address pressing development challenges, and to report the outcome in the annual reports of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;

11. *Recognizes* the positive contributions to South-South cooperation of the rapid increase in connectivity within and among developing countries, invites the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations system, including regional commissions, as appropriate and consistent with their respective mandates, and in collaboration with interested Member States, to support efforts to leverage the digital revolution and bridge the digital divide with a view to improving the delivery of public services in the South;

12. *Notes* that 2018 will mark the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1] and in this regard invites the General Assembly to consider options to commemorate the anniversary;

13. *Notes* the forthcoming fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, and invites the Conference to continue supporting South-South and triangular cooperation in accordance with its mandate, taking into account the outcome of the High-level Committee;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation, including through the establishment of institutions such as the New Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, encourages the United Nations system to support this work, as appropriate, and acknowledges the ongoing efforts of other multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, in supporting South-South cooperation;

15. *Recognizes* that interregional South-South and triangular summits to set strategies and agendas, enhance policy coordination and launch joint initiatives have become key means of bolstering South-South trade and investment and other exchanges relevant to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and requests the United Nations system, as appropriate and consistent with the respective mandates, to support the implementation of such initiatives agreed upon by Member States;

16. *Welcomes* the growing contribution of some developing countries to the provision of complementary resources and support for infrastructure development and to the production and diffusion of, inter alia, renewable technologies and affordable medicines, and encourages interested Member States and the United Nations system, as appropriate and consistent with the respective mandates, to support these initiatives at the global and regional levels;

17. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute, in support of such cooperation, to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfers among developing countries;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on progress made in implementing the present decision, including the recommendations and proposals made in his report, to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its twentieth session, in 2018;

19. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, including in her role as the head of the United Nations Development Group, to provide an update on the work of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team, the mapping of good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation, the support to interregional initiatives, and progress made by the Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation on efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the Office in her report to the High-level Committee at its twentieth session.

Decision 19/2
Provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at its nineteenth session,

Approves the following provisional agenda for its twentieth session, to be held in 2018:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.
3. Actions arising from previous sessions of the High-level Committee, including in regard to events to mark the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on technical cooperation among developing countries.
4. Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of decision 19/1 of the High-level Committee.
5. Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme:
    (a) Implementation of the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation;
    (b) Organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme in support of South-South cooperation, including efforts to enhance the role and impact of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

6. Thematic discussion.*

7. Consideration of the follow-up by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation on the recommendations of the United Nations Development Programme Office of Audit and Investigations audit report of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

8. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

9. Approval of the provisional agenda for the twenty-first session of the High-level Committee.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee on its twentieth session.

* Theme to be decided on the basis of consultations to be undertaken with Member States by the Bureau of the High-level Committee.

Chapter II
High-level plenary segment

A. Opening of the session

2. At its 1st meeting, on 16 May 2016, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation elected, by acclamation, Oana Rebedea (Romania) and Nicolas Manuel Randin (Switzerland) as Vice-Presidents and Purnomo Ahmad Chandra (Indonesia) as Rapporteur.

3. In the absence of the President of the Committee, Vice-President Diana Carolina Moya (Colombia), elected at the organizational meeting held on 14 April 2016, made a statement and took over the proceedings of the opening of the session. Vice-President Oana Rebedea (Romania) chaired the plenary segment on the morning of 17 May.

4. Also at the 1st meeting, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) made a statement.

B. Introduction of reports on implementation

5. The Committee considered agenda items 2, 3 and 4 at its 1st to 4th meetings, on 16 and 17 May.

6. At the 1st meeting, the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation introduced the following documents:

(a) Report prepared by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation on the review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (SSC/19/1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive proposal on concrete ways to enhance the role and impact of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as well as the key measures taken to improve the coordination and coherence of United Nations support to South-South cooperation (SSC/19/2);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSC/19/3).

C. Discussion

7. Members of the High-level Committee, meeting for the first time since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, strongly reiterated their continued unwavering support for South-South and triangular cooperation, grounded in a revitalized partnership integral to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. They began by congratulating the newly elected President and members of the Bureau and expressed their readiness to work closely with them throughout the following two years. They also welcomed the new Envoy of the

Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation on his recent appointment. They looked forward to close collaboration with the Envoy and the Office to promote South-South and triangular cooperation in the global drive to meet the internationally agreed development goals, including the new Sustainable Development Goals.

8. In framing the discussion, Member States drew attention to the major international agreements of recent years, including the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Some delegations also highlighted the central place of South-South and triangular cooperation in the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in 2011, and the first High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, held in Mexico City in 2014. Delegations stressed the urgent need to maximize the potential of South-South and triangular cooperation in order to achieve the goals established by the international community by 2030. Likewise, they highlighted that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, set to be discussed during the upcoming seventy-first session of the General Assembly in 2016, should reflect the critical role of South-South and triangular cooperation in United Nations system-wide coherence and coordination.

9. Speaking on behalf of groups or as individual Member States or organizations, participants noted that South-South and triangular cooperation continued to grow as a driving force for development at the global, regional and country levels, and underlined the potential of South-South and triangular cooperation to eradicate poverty and foster sustainable development. They stressed that development actors should therefore seek out the forms and conditions under which South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation were particularly successful. One delegation observed that, in the interest of increasing the efficiency of South-South and triangular cooperation, emphasizing good practices was no reason to ignore failures.

10. Countries across the board agreed that the rapidly changing international development landscape called for a move beyond traditional forms of development cooperation. Several participants noted that the 2030 Agenda had firmly established sustainable development as the guiding concept, focused on countries' interconnectedness, while making developing countries active agents of change and not simply passive recipients of assistance. They noted that exchanging lessons learned from different development cooperation models was a crucial way forward, together with building understanding of countries' comparative advantages, complementarities and synergies. That included facilitating and maximizing the contribution that South-South and triangular cooperation could make towards achieving development outcomes in areas such as technical assistance, capacity-building and financing for development.

11. As in past sessions, a group of delegations reiterated its position that South-South cooperation was a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South. It contributed to national well-being, national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Citing the Nairobi outcome document, the group stressed that it was the prerogative of countries of the South to set the South-South cooperation agenda and that the principles of respect for national

sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit should continue to guide that agenda. Furthermore, the group stressed that South-South cooperation was not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation and that development cooperation between the North and the South should follow the 2030 Agenda principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. In that context, it was emphasized that North-South cooperation needed scaling up to serve the new Agenda in tandem with United Nations discussions focused on how developed countries could fulfil their assistance commitments.

12. The group pointed to the following six engines that would make South-South cooperation a powerful driver of innovation, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and growth: (a) more open and transparent partnerships to address the priorities of the 2030 Agenda; (b) a clearer definition of the South-South cooperation strategies of Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and public- and private-sector entities; (c) the positioning of South-South cooperation knowledge-sharing in the fields of science, technology and innovation; (d) the sharing of development experiences, knowledge exchanges and capacity-building; (e) the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation in national development cooperation frameworks; and (f) the design of more robust mechanisms for systematic coordination and measurement as well as reporting.

13. Member States welcomed the progress achieved by the United Nations Development Group Task Team on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in establishing a more formalized, stronger inter-agency mechanism coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. Expressing appreciation for the publication entitled *Good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development*, which was shared with Member States, the group looked forward to a comprehensive review of the Task Team's work when it completed its mandate at the end of 2016. Similarly, delegations were pleased that Member States had designated national focal points for South-South and triangular cooperation and encouraged all countries that had not done so to follow suit. They also encouraged the Office and the Task Team to work closely together to foster dialogue and collaboration among the network of Southern centres of excellence to advance South-South and triangular cooperation in sectors important to developing countries.

14. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/222, one group reiterated its request to the Administrator of UNDP, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to: (a) provide a progress update on efforts to establish a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism, coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in order to encourage joint support for South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and to share information on development activities and results achieved by United Nations organizations through their respective business models; (b) give the Office the opportunity to be represented in the Group's strategic and coordination mechanisms when it deliberated on matters affecting South-South and triangular cooperation and to enhance the role of the Office as the system-wide focal point for South-South and triangular cooperation; and (c) assist developing countries, upon their request, to implement South-South projects, including the sharing of Southern best practices and experiences, a role that the Office could play.

15. One group highlighted the unique and invaluable perspective that emerging donors brought to development cooperation, since they had been recipients of official development assistance (ODA) or had simultaneously been recipients and providers of development assistance. It noted that all partners benefited when they cooperated with South-South providers, who, they stressed, should be recognized for their support. The group stressed the need to find better instruments and ways to measure development cooperation and outcomes, which would ensure that they made the most effective contribution to implementing the 2030 Agenda. That demanded greater transparency and accountability among all development actors, which were needed for strong partnerships. In that regard, the group underscored the usefulness of triangular cooperation in changing the global context, offering partners new opportunities to extend their reach and visibility and to learn from one another's strengths. With that in mind, developing countries were encouraged to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation. The group stressed that it was important to take advantage of the expertise, human resources and networks, and other assets accumulated in recipient countries over the years. Triangular cooperation, one delegation added, should involve emerging economies as well as other countries in order to capitalize on existing country-level assets.

16. Addressing that same issue, one delegation emphasized that, in its view, trilateral cooperation should be characterized by partnerships that, guided by South-South cooperation principles, sought to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience for the benefit of developing countries. It highlighted that there was a variety of trilateral cooperation arrangements, including those that developing countries initiated — and funded — with third parties.

17. One group of countries encouraged all development actors, including those engaged in South-South and triangular cooperation, to use the development effectiveness principles identified in international forums, including the Busan High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and the Mexico City High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. It stressed that, in order to be successful, all types of development cooperation had to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of operations and compliance with rules and procedures.

18. Participants welcomed the report on the review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation (SSC/19/1), especially the contribution of Southern partners to sustainable development and the work of the United Nations system in promoting South-South cooperation. One delegation in particular found the regional breakdowns useful and welcomed the focus on regional cooperation and regional mechanisms, including the role of the new development banks. A number of delegations drew attention to and agreed with the need to address the negative impacts of illicit financial flows, especially in Africa, and urged all Member States to recommit themselves to strengthening transparency, accountability and good governance.

19. Delegations considered the report on the comprehensive proposal of the Secretary-General on concrete ways to enhance the role and impact of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as well as the key measures taken to improve the coordination and coherence of United Nations support to South-South

cooperation (SSC/19/2). One group noted the focus of that report on the Office activities and the profile of the staff with the capacity to support policy dialogue and intergovernmental processes, partnership-building and mainstreaming of South-South and triangular cooperation in United Nations operational activities. However, it highlighted the fact that, despite the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/222, the report did not elaborate on how to scale up the financial, human and budgetary resources of the Office. The group also sought further elaboration on the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and how it would strengthen the role of the Office as the focal point for promoting South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and system-wide basis.

20. With regard to the note by the Secretary-General on the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSC/19/3), one delegation observed that any actions, including the ones proposed in the guidelines document, must be implemented in interaction with the national focal points to strengthen their coordinating role in each country. The delegation understood that all actions on the guidelines relating to monitoring and evaluation must be applied only to international organizations when supporting South-South initiatives, not to those actions conducted by the Governments of developing countries.

21. One delegation noted that the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation played an instrumental role in building a common understanding of the scope, challenges and opportunities that the United Nations development system faced in promoting and facilitating South-South cooperation in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Another delegation stressed that, in building that understanding, the Committee had to be guided by the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Nairobi outcome document. The delegation stressed two aspects on which Committee discussions had to focus: system-wide coordination and engagement with national focal points.

22. Another delegation supported the idea of holding a commemorative ceremony for the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, an event that would enable the international community to have a more refined and consolidated approach to the role of South-South cooperation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

23. A group of delegations stressed that the success of the 2030 Agenda demanded better United Nations system-wide coordination and tackling of the continued fragmentation of the United Nations development system. The establishment of the Task Team on South-South and Triangular Cooperation was an important step, although scaling up the role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation was critical in that regard. The group noted that the success of the strategy of the Task Team hinged on the engagement of the Office with Member States, on bilateral exchanges between developing countries and on regular interaction with national focal points. The Office should ensure that all its actions were planned and implemented in participation with developing-country Governments, including the definition of criteria and parameters. One delegation emphasized that the United Nations development system should lead efforts to remove administrative and procedural barriers that limited the creation of new initiatives. Tackling the challenges of system-wide coordination and systematic engagement with national focal points required the strengthening of the Office, with an appropriate structure supported mainly through core resources.

24. A group of delegations expressed concern with the "unsatisfactory" rating that the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation had received in the report of the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (No. 1580, issued on 24 February 2016). The group noted that the report pointed to significant weaknesses in organizational structure, including human resources and budget management. It noted with concern the release of the recent audit reports by UNDP and the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services following the indictment and corruption allegations against a former President of the General Assembly. The audits raised a number of serious flags pointing to weaknesses in the United Nations system, including the lack of transparency and gaps in policy and practice in the management of the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and engagement with non-governmental organizations. One delegation reiterated those concerns in relation to procedures for entering into partnerships, some of which were made through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. At the same time, the group of delegations acknowledged the initial steps taken to implement the audit recommendations and emphasized the need for the immediate full implementation of all outstanding recommendations. The group also looked forward to working with the United Nations and Member States to address those gaps and suggested that the High-level Committee include closer examination of the audit findings in its agenda. Delegations also underlined the importance of implementing the unfulfilled recommendations of the review by the Joint Inspection Unit of South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2011/3), and those of UNDP (DP/CF/SSC/5).

25. Representatives of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and of intergovernmental organizations participated in the general debate. They presented detailed information on a wide and diverse range of South-South activities in areas such as policy coordination, strategic studies, knowledge-sharing and knowledge platforms, intellectual property rights, technical and policy support, capacity-building, grass-roots good-practice exchanges, and creating a South-South enabling environment. They drew attention to the ways in which their catalytic support was helping to leverage and scale up the benefits of South-South cooperation at the global, regional and national levels through new and strengthened regional and subregional cooperation agreements and their impacts. They described their adoption of more strategic approaches to incorporate, mainstream and implement South-South cooperation in policies and operations, and shared examples of how South-South cooperation had become a source and a driver of development growth, as demonstrated in its steep rise in importance in preceding years. They pointed to evidence that South-South initiatives were promoting solidarity and equality among countries and cities, both in North-South and South-South spheres, while contributing to the democratization of international relations among participating countries. That was visible in areas such as employment and decent work, social protection, population and development, food security and agriculture, and health and medical procurement. Volunteerism served as a central pillar in promoting and attracting youth to the potential of South-South cooperation, especially its unique capacity to build bridges, share knowledge and forge partnerships, most notably in middle-income countries.

26. The Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation responded to a number of questions and concerns raised by the participants. He stated that, with the support of

UNDP and the strong engagement of the Office, 10 of the 16 recommendations contained in the audit report of the Office had been fully implemented and the remaining 6 recommendations were in advanced stages of implementation, and he offered to provide to interested Member States a comprehensive briefing in that regard. The Office was extremely confident of its ability to ensure top-quality services as well as the fiduciary trust that the Committee expected. The Director confirmed the commitment of the Office to absolute integrity and total transparency, and invited Member States to engage more closely with the Office to enhance its effectiveness through such means as secondment of staff, financial contributions or other arrangements designed collaboratively. The Director assured Member States wishing to make a financial contribution that the Office was well positioned to guarantee that those resources would be used appropriately.

27. The Director assured Member States that the Office was keenly dedicated to its mission and fully embraced its responsibilities to be a strong advocate and supporter of South-South and triangular cooperation. He stressed the deep commitment of the United Nations development system to the work of the Task Team on South-South and Triangular Cooperation and drew attention in particular to the publication entitled *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Development*, which mapped good practices that many United Nations organizations were already undertaking. He looked forward to using the exercise of mapping South-South cooperation good practices to help Member States to connect with one another. Noting that the mandate of the Task Team would expire in December 2016, the Director assured Member States that powerful successor arrangements would be put in place because all participating organizations understood the critical importance of achieving the 2030 Agenda.

28. The Director of the Office also highlighted the strong support and recommendations that the Office had received from organizations of the United Nations development system in the revising of the operational guidelines for South-South and triangular cooperation. He noted the comments on the conceptual definition of trilateral cooperation contained in those guidelines while stressing that the guidelines contained agreed language which required broad discussions before any proposed changes were made. He stated that the operational guidelines were an internal United Nations document for South-South engagement and planning that was not binding on Member States but indicated his readiness to meet bilaterally with the delegation that commented on the guidelines. He also stated that the Office welcomed further comments by Member States on the ways to improve and maximize the work of the Office so that it could fulfil its very ambitious agenda, grounded in the decisions of the High-level Committee.

29. The Director stated that the Office sought to deepen its partnership with the regional commissions and engage with them more systematically. He also indicated that the Office actively sought to engage in joint partnerships with multinational organizations outside the United Nations system in order to form new modalities of collaboration. He concluded by inviting all participants to join in deepening partnerships for South-South and triangular cooperation.

Chapter III

Thematic discussion: "The contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

30. The Committee considered agenda item 5 at its 4th meeting, on 17 May.

31. The Vice-President of the Committee, Nicolas Manuel Randin (Switzerland), opened and chaired the thematic discussion.

32. The Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, who served as moderator, introduced the nine panel members.[10]

33. The thematic debate explored how South-South and triangular cooperation was both a policy and an operational driver for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in particular, the Sustainable Development Goals. The presentations described actual South-South success stories that had had a tangible impact at the local, national and regional levels as well as those that had built lasting subregional and regional partnerships. Within that overall context, discussions touched on jump-starting industrialization and economic transformation, product traceability innovation in agriculture and agro-industries, regional pooled medical procurement, civil service reform, energy sector investment and development, social protection and knowledge-building and exchange.

34. Each of the nine experts who made a presentation during the thematic discussion addressed a specific aspect of the topic.

First presentation

35. The presenter of the theme "The role of South-South and triangular cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda" highlighted how important South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation were for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Over the years, the lessons and successes of the modality had enabled countries to design effective public policies for development. Triangular cooperation was a mechanism that helped to realize the potential of Southern countries, building long-term partnerships, working in parallel with traditional North-South cooperation. He stressed that both South-South and North-South cooperation were essential for the success of the 2030 Agenda. In light of that background and the substantial South-South work undertaken during the period of the Millennium Development Goals, it was clear that development partners in the Latin America and the Caribbean region were not starting from scratch as they embarked on tackling the Sustainable Development Goals. The Latin America and the Caribbean programme to strengthen South-South cooperation made it possible to reach a common, consensual position on the modality. In April 2016, building on the initiative of Chile and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 20 countries in the region had exchanged ideas and knowledge on: (a) the significant progress towards the new Goals; (b) individual national

[10] The views expressed by the panellists are not necessarily those of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

progress in setting up the institutional frameworks: (c) Sustainable Development Goals strategies focused on South-South cooperation and political will; (d) agreement on the need to strengthen international and regional mechanisms and platforms to achieve the Goals through proposals and strategies for innovation; (e) agreement on the need for flexibility and speed in responding to country needs; (f) systematization of South-South cooperation in order to identify the results and impact of actions taken to inform policy and focus operations; and (g) the notion that South-South cooperation should contribute to generating more strategies, agendas, modalities and partnerships at the regional and interregional levels.

Second presentation

36. The presenter of the theme "South-South and triangular cooperation: a change in the development paradigm" addressed the role of international cooperation and South-South cooperation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He stated that achieving the Goals required a similar but modified Millennium Development Goals approach, which included the following: (a) expand the scope of resource mobilization to include different types of sources; (b) consider official development assistance and other forms of international cooperation as resources complementary to national efforts; (c) use South-South and triangular cooperation to maximize the exchange of experiences and knowledge; (d) prioritize the principle of shared but differential responsibilities so that each actor's capacities, comparative advantages and resources would be taken into account; and (e) acknowledge the dual role of middle-income countries as both recipients and providers of development assistance. As a middle-income country, Mexico was actively engaged in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation. Regarding global partnerships, it had collaborated with Indonesia in leading the debates on knowledge exchange at the first High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, held in Mexico City in 2014, and had promoted the creation of an independent advocacy group to make recommendations on South-South and triangular cooperation. At the regional level, for the period 2016 to 2018, Mexico was the Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of ECLAC and an important partner in initiatives with Chile (sustainable development plan for micro, small and medium enterprise competitiveness on leather and footwear) and Uruguay (biotic response to global environmental change: evidence of Antarctic terrestrial ecosystems and their environmental services). Mexico also led the regional project to strengthen institutional capacities of Governments in order to develop and manage monitoring and implementation systems. Changing the paradigm still required: (a) exploring South-South flows to determine how they were redefining the international development cooperation architecture; (b) designing more effective South-South schemes and scaling up best practices; (c) pursuing a common regional vision on how to quantify South-South cooperation; (d) enabling frameworks for inclusive partnerships; and (e) fostering a multi-stakeholder approach.

Third presentation

37. The presenter of the theme "How to jump-start industrialization and economic transformation in Africa" drew attention to the work of the Centre for New Structural Economics at Peking University, creator of the programme, to jump-start industrialization and economic transformation in Africa by teaming up with the

Made in Africa Initiative. The Centre sought to create a cooperation partnership among African countries that brought together: (a) the continent's comparative advantages of an abundant supply of labour and raw materials; (b) Chinese investors with manufacturing capacity; and (c) international buyers and retailers with access to large markets in Europe and the United States of America. The aim was to help the Governments of Africa to adopt a proactive approach to investment promotion and to improve the infrastructure and business environment in special economic zones and industrial parks in order to attract export-oriented light manufacturing firms from China and thereby obtain technological know-how and win the confidence of international buyers. The approach began by determining what a developing country had and what it could potentially do well. In turn, the Made in Africa Initiative assisted African Governments to design industrial parks by leveraging Chinese expertise in the special economic zones. A zone developer then helped to build the infrastructure of the industrial park, while the Centre collaborated with financial institutions to provide equity investment to help mitigate risks for potential Chinese investors. The promising success of the initiative in Ethiopia and Rwanda had sparked high-level political commitment and had prompted other African countries — Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania — to express interest in the sustainable, inclusive industrialization model, which, it was hoped, would provide an example for the least developed countries of the region.

Fourth presentation

38. The presenter of the theme "The Egyptian Agriculture and Agro-industries Technology Centre" underscored that the Centre was demand-driven, fully operational at the project and programme levels and supported by the private sector in Egypt, targeting the agricultural value chains at the regional and global levels. The project began with the help of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), building on an already-existing initiative dealing with food traceability that sought to respond to a related European Union law from 2002. The law demanded that products entering the European Union had to be traceable to the source in order to guarantee safety. The project provided technical assistance, training and knowledge transfer to private industries in Egypt and helped to build their traceability and food-safety infrastructure and systems. As a result of the cooperation, the project graduated from a successful local initiative to a sustainable best practice, in part owing to the excellent documentation of the project success, including a regional e-learning platform. Communication and dissemination of the knowledge and expertise were key factors in the expansion and growth of the institution into a centre of excellence benefiting some 15 countries in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. One of the main South-South knowledge-sharing tools was the observational study tours to Egypt organized for technical experts from Governments and the private sector. Building on its success, the Centre had expanded to collaborate with private sector companies in a supplier development programme for local buyers in India, Italy and the Russian Federation with the help of UNIDO in order to build agricultural value chains.

Fifth presentation

39. The presenter of the theme "USAID project development and investment in sub-Saharan Africa focused on the energy sector" stressed that the project approach that was followed was grounded in the principle of partnership and trilateral cooperation with all actors, including the private sector. In doing so, it sought to bring in the right expertise appropriate to the needs of countries in a specific context, to create local ownership and to enable the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to be a partner and a catalyst without having a long-term presence on the ground. Based on studies of how best to approach development cooperation in Africa, USAID repeatedly reached the conclusion that energy was a major challenge that needed to be addressed. As a result, it had created Power Africa, a long-term initiative that sought to change the dynamic in Africa once and for all, with one or two generations of investment, in order to tackle the development challenges so as to meet a part of the $869 billion deficit in the electricity sector in Africa and a portion of the electricity needs of 600 million Africans living without electricity. Energy-sector development lent itself to trilateral partnership and international cooperation, given the need to build local infrastructure. In contrast to traditional development, Power Africa was funded by a wide range of partners at the local, regional and global levels that offered it stamina and the guarantee of long-term local ownership. It also reduced the risk inherent in large energy-sector infrastructure projects. As such, Power Africa was a huge web of trilateral cooperation relationships and multilateral cooperation projects in order to create the multibillion dollar investment in Africa's energy sector. Power Africa had facilitated a conversation that had resulted in the creation, by sub-Saharan African Governments and utility entities, of the power purchasing agreement model for the African continent. It had helped to identify community-driven electrification models for rural areas, expand the success of off-grid power firms from one African region to another and facilitate capacity-building and training, including by bringing in experts from dozens of countries. The Government of Sweden was one of the main partners of Power Africa. The aim was to ensure that Power Africa would become self-sustaining on the continent.

Sixth presentation

40. The presenter of the theme "Civil service reform in Kazakhstan" highlighted the move by Kazakhstan in recent years to create a meritocratic and autonomous civil service in the country. Kazakhstan viewed partnerships as one of the major factors of the success of the project, including national and international cooperation. One example of that institutional cooperation was the creation by Kazakhstan, in partnership with UNDP, of the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana, launched in 2013 in collaboration with 25 countries and five international organizations, and with a $14 million investment by the Government of Kazakhstan until 2017. The mission of the Hub was to promote civil service effectiveness by supporting government efforts in building institutional and human capacities. The success of the Hub was built on: partnerships and networking; capacity-building and peer-to-peer learning; and research and knowledge management. There were 34 countries participating in the Hub from a diverse set of countries throughout the world, which was especially beneficial to countries of the region in bringing to bear a significant knowledge base. The capacity-building initiatives of the Hub were demand-driven and based on country assessments, with the participation of civil

servants and scholars from more than 40 countries. The focus was on boosting meritocracy, training methods, public service delivery, research skills and motivation and performance appraisal of civil servants and others. The Hub had also begun to test the peer-to-peer learning methodology through the Effective Institutions Platform led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It also served as a resource centre for knowledge products, including the annual review of regional and global trends in civil service reforms and the development and dissemination of case studies based on regional success stories. The Hub had launched its first innovative solutions scheme in 2015, provided the winners with grants to disseminate solutions in other countries and published its own journal of civil service reform practices. It also organized annual stakeholder meetings to share its success, lessons learned and experiences.

Seventh presentation

41. The presenter of the theme "Experiences of South-South solutions in establishing social protection networks in African, Arab and Asian countries" stressed that a major challenge to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was the fact that 73 per cent of the global population did not have adequate access to social protection and coverage. He noted that establishing social protection floors was recognized as a critical factor in fighting poverty, inequality and exclusion, and one of the main pro-poor tools of national development strategies. Furthermore, social protection floors were a major component of strategies to address the challenge posed by the informal sector. Social protection was by nature a strong South-South cooperation best practice given its prominence in Southern countries and their expertise and success, which they now shared. The International Labour Organization had begun to study social protection systems in order to identify gaps and implementation problems that were similar to those facing other developing countries and it had issued a guide on best practices in leading national dialogue to assess the situation of social security, built on the South-South experience of 10 member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 2012. The dialogue included public and private partners and the methodology was based on the multi-stakeholder dialogue approach in an effort to identity challenges and reach consensual recommendations and solutions. It also included evaluations and regular reporting on implementation. Such dialogues had already been carried out in 18 African countries and included needs assessments to determine the right match of expertise.

Eighth presentation

42. The presenter of the theme "The contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to improve access to medicine: pooled medical procurement by OECS member States" emphasized that the mission of the initiative was to maximize the health-care services of member countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) through pooled procurement and management. The focus of the initiative was not only on procurement but also on supply chain management, with the understanding that medicine was the most important aspect of health-care delivery. Since its inception, the initiative had been grounded in three basic premises. First, it recognized access to essential medicines as a basic human right, which was especially pertinent since up to one third of developing countries lacked access. Secondly, medicines were a major requirement for foreign exchange since

more than 90 per cent of medicines used in the region were imported, representing a significant leakage in financial resources. It thus made economic sense to pool resources so as to ensure best prices and reduce leakage of foreign exchange. Lastly, because financial constraints had made it difficult for OECS Governments to adequately finance medicines, they had established a market basket of the most essential medicines for use in the public sector. The essential ingredients that had led to the success of the programme included: (a) the free movement of people, capital and goods through the Caribbean economic union, facilitating the pooled procurement of medicines; (b) national and regional ownership, with national focal points in each country; (c) establishment by OECS member countries of separate accounts at the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, with a stable currency pegged to the United States dollar, a major aspect for pooled procurement so that suppliers could be paid promptly in foreign exchange; and (d) initial support from USAID, after which the programme became fully self-financing. The programme had moved from an initial market basket of 200 medicines to 840 medicines and had expanded from 6 to 10 OECS member countries. The benefits included increased bargaining power, stronger competitiveness, reduced prices, greater regional integration, a harmonized list of medicines and better information-sharing.

Ninth presentation

43. The presenter of the theme "The contribution of knowledge-sharing to South-South cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" outlined the context of the global drive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, highlighting the main challenges and opportunities. Those included: (a) global connectedness; (b) shifting of the economic centre of gravity, notably with the increase in middle-income countries and the economic balance moving towards developing countries; (c) technological change and its adoption, making it possible to skip phases of development; (d) urbanization, the defining phenomenon of the century, and its related demographic trends; and (e) climate change, which was interwoven through all the Goals and their achievement. Added to that list were the overarching goals of ending extreme poverty and increasing shared prosperity. The World Bank was focused on three avenues of cooperation: financing, including ODA, and private-sector and domestic resource generation; data, essential for the management of any development programme; and implementation, where South-South knowledge exchange and cooperation were critical for scaling up. Since knowledge-sharing was the pillar that would galvanize implementation of the Goals, the World Bank had established a multi-stakeholder platform that included organizational knowledge-sharing and the South-South Experience Exchange Facility. Through organizational knowledge-sharing, in particular, the World Bank helped public-sector institutions — the main providers of services to populations — to better realize their potential and improve their service delivery by more systematically capturing and curating knowledge and finding ways to exchange it domestically and internationally. For that to succeed, however, it was essential to: (a) focus on how actual knowledge exchange occurred so that organizations became learning-oriented, with the aim of scaling up and sharing knowledge; (b) determine how knowledge was generated and shared locally and domestically; and (c) determine how that worked internationally. All of it was demand-driven and had two main aspects for success: creating an enabling environment for institutional knowledge generation and technical skills. The South-South Experience Exchange Facility, for its part, was a multi-donor facility and had

had 215 engagements in eight years promoting South-South best practices and knowledge exchange throughout the developing world. The Bank was now moving from such one-off projects to multi-year programmatic cooperation in order to ensure sustainability and scaling up.

General discussion

44. In the general discussion that followed, delegations recognized and expressed their appreciation for the South-South best practices presented and looked forward to the further sharing of knowledge, success stories and lessons learned. In their questions and comments, they focused on: (a) the ways in which South-South initiatives dialogued with one another within the same region and with South-South initiatives in other regions; (b) the extent to which South-South cooperation for industrialization incorporated environmental safeguards; (c) the ratio of South-South initiatives to triangular cooperation initiatives; (d) the extent to which foreign firms working under a South-South modality employed local labour in the recipient country; (e) the number of South-South cooperation initiatives that had a health component; (f) the share of foreign versus national input in industrial-productivity transfer schemes; (g) the elements of a South-South initiative that reassured risk-averse investors, for example, in building industrial parks; (h) the types of conditionalities, if any, attached to South-South initiatives; (i) the ways to ensure that South-South cooperation was demand-driven; and (j) resolving the issue of medical nomenclature in pooled procurement schemes.

45. In response, the panellists highlighted a number of points. They stressed that building partnerships and connecting with similar South-South initiatives in other regions and at the global level remained a challenge. Regular meetings, annual publications, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and regional and global knowledge platforms were mentioned as useful tools for partnership-building and for connecting people and practices. Similarly, dialogue, even at the regional level, often failed to plug into the rich pool of South-South experiences. Delegations noted that the United Nations and especially the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation offered a viable and unique global forum for the exchange of South-South knowledge and experiences, including on issues of South-South conceptualization. Constant learning and application of lessons learned were also cited as crucial to the ability of South-South cooperation to meet the challenges of the 2030 Agenda — whether it dealt with applying the principles of environmental sustainability, prioritizing the hiring and training of local employees, or using foreign expertise and products only to supplement local materials, products and knowledge — as part of capacity-building efforts. They underscored the potential of the private sector and stressed the importance for countries and regions to create the right enabling environment for market conditions to flourish, a task for which the United Nations had the expertise and a knowledge and practice platform. Broad triangular cooperation partnerships also helped to reduce risks associated with major infrastructure projects. Since each country was different, however, it was important for South-South and triangular cooperation partners to help countries and regions to assess their local, national and regional needs before applying even the successful practices from other countries and regions.

Chapter IV
Report of the Working Group

46. The Committee considered agenda item 6 at its 5th meeting, on 19 May. Tarik Iziraren (Morocco) facilitated the decisions of the session.

47. The Chair of the session, who also served as the Rapporteur of the Working Group, introduced the report of the Working Group.

48. The Committee adopted the report of the Working Group.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Committee

49. The Committee considered agenda item 7 at its 6th meeting, on 19 May.

50. The Committee approved the provisional agenda for its twentieth session (see chap. I, decision 19/2) and authorized its President to consult with the representatives of Member States on the thematic discussion for the twentieth session and to communicate the decision taken on the basis of those consultations to Member States in advance of the twentieth session in order to enable delegations to make the appropriate preparations.

Chapter VI
Other matters

51. The Committee did not consider any issues under agenda item 8 at its 6th meeting, on 19 May.

Chapter VII
Adoption of the report

52. The Committee considered agenda item 9 at its 6th meeting, on 19 May.

53. The Rapporteur, Purnomo Ahmad Chandra (Indonesia), introduced the draft report of the Committee.

54. The Committee adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VIII
Closure of the session

55. At the 6th meeting, on 19 May, a closing statement was made by the Assistant Administrator of UNDP on behalf of the Administrator.

56. At the same meeting, a closing statement was also made by the Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

Chapter IX
Organizational matters

A. Date and place of the session

57. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation held its nineteenth session at United Nations Headquarters from 16 to 19 May 2016. The session concluded on 19 May 2016. The Committee held six meetings. It also held an organizational meeting on 14 April.

58. The establishment, background, history, chronology and reports on the work of the previous sessions of the Committee are contained in the reports of the Committee to the General Assembly.[11]

59. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 35/202, the session was convened by the Administrator of UNDP under the usual procedural arrangements.

B. Attendance

60. The nineteenth session of the Committee was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations or States participating in UNDP. Also attending were representatives of United Nations bodies and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system; intergovernmental organizations; and individuals invited to participate as panellists. The list of those attending the session is contained in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

61. The Committee elected its officers by acclamation, as follows:

President:
Richard Nduhuura (Uganda)

Vice-Presidents:
Diana Moya (Colombia)
Oana Rebedea (Romania)
Nicolas Manuel Randin (Switzerland)

Rapporteur:
Purnomo Ahmad Chandra (Indonesia)

[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39* and corrigendum (A/35/39 and Corr.1); ibid., *Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/36/39); ibid., *Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/38/39); ibid., *Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/40/39); ibid., *Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/42/39); ibid., *Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/44/39); ibid., *Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/46/39); ibid., *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/48/39); ibid., *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/50/39); ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/52/39); ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/54/39); ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/56/39); ibid., *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/58/39); *Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/60/39); *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/62/39); ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/65/39); ibid., *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/67/39); and ibid., *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/69/39).

62. In the absence of the President of the Committee, the three Vice-Presidents presided over the plenary segment and the thematic discussion of the nineteenth session.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

63. The Committee held an organizational meeting in New York on 14 April 2016 to elect the Bureau of its nineteenth session and to adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work.

64. The Committee adopted the provisional annotated agenda (SSC/19/L.2) and organization of work (SSC/19/L.3) for its nineteenth session. A general debate on items 2 to 4 was held in plenary session on 16 and 17 May. The Working Group, which began its work on 18 May, was assigned agenda items 2 to 4 for substantive discussion and charged with making recommendations to the Committee. The list of documents before the Committee is contained in annex II to the present report.

Annex I

List of those attending the nineteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

States Members of the United Nations or States participating in the United Nations Development Programme

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

United Nations bodies and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system

Department of Field Support
Department of Safety and Security
Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
United Nations Population Fund
United Nations Volunteers
World Food Programme

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
International Fund for Agricultural Development
International Labour Organization
International Maritime Organization
International Monetary Fund
Pan American Health Organization
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Bank Group
World Health Organization
World Intellectual Property Organization

Intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining permanent offices at Headquarters

European Union
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
International Renewable Energy Agency
International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
League of Arab States
Organization of American States
Organization of Islamic Cooperation
Partners in Population and Development

Intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly but not maintaining permanent offices at Headquarters

Association of Caribbean States
Islamic Development Bank Group
Union for the Mediterranean
Union of South American Nations

Other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and maintaining permanent offices at Headquarters

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Individuals invited to participate as panellists

Jaime Miranda, Vice-Minister of Development Cooperation, El Salvador

Noel González Segura, Acting Director-General for Policy and Planning of International Cooperation, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

Jiajun Xu, Executive Deputy Director, Center for New Structural Economics, Peking University, China

Alaa Fahmy, Director, Egyptian Traceability Centre for Agro-Industrial Exports

Sean Jones, Deputy Coordinator, Power Africa, United States Agency for International Development Alikhan Baimenov, Chairman, Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana, Kazakhstan

Francis Burnett, Head, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Pharmaceutical Procurement Service

Virgilio Levaggi, Director for Partnerships and Country Support, International Labour Organization

Abha Joshi-Ghani, Acting Vice-President, The World Bank Group

Annex II

List of documents before the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its nineteenth session

Report prepared by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation on the review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (SSC/19/1)

Report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive proposal on concrete ways to enhance the role and impact of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as well as the key measures taken to improve the coordination and coherence of United Nations support to South-South cooperation (SSC/19/2)

Note by the Secretary-General on the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSC/19/3)

Provisional annotated agenda and list of documents (SSC/19/L.2)

Note by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the organization of work (SSC/19/L.3)

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